

A New Phlox from Texas

✓ *Phlox wilcoxiana* sp. nov.

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The writer's attention was first directed to this plant four years ago while collecting in the coastal region of Texas. The deep red color of the flower was so intense and abundant that a number of plants were collected for closer study. At first it was believed that the deeper coloration was due to soil factors entirely, and seed was collected for both this species and of *Phlox drummondii* Hooker, which is the name the plant has been passing under. When the seeds of one locality were planted in the habitat of the other, no changes in color or structure were evident and four years' observation has revealed no difference of the offspring that have come from self-seeding.

The new phlox differs from *Phlox drummondii* in the deep red color of the corolla, the larger size of the plant, the much longer calyx, and in the arrangement of the leaves. *Phlox wilcoxiana* as a whole is much more viscid, and specimens that have been placed between sheets shed considerable quantities of sand that adheres to the living plant. The more villous stem and leaves approaches that of *Phlox villosissima* (A. Gray) Small, but the latter is a smaller plant with a somewhat larger corolla limb. Both *Phlox drummondii* and *Phlox villosissima* dry with lavender or pink corollas, while that of *Phlox wilcoxiana* invariably dries a deep maroon-red. White flowered forms have been observed, but they are few.

The specific name has been taken from the geologic formation upon which the species is found most abundantly. The distribution is most abundant in Gonzales, Caldwell, Bastrop, Atascosa, and adjoining counties, but it is expected to occur over a greater part of the coastal region, and it has never been reported from any other stations. A description of the characters follows.

Annual, villous, viscid plants. Stems 1-5 dm. tall, sometimes branched at the base, usually erect: lower leaves opposite, oblanceolate with narrowed bases, petioled, 2.5-4 cm. long; upper leaves lanceolate with obtuse, sometimes clasping, bases, alternate, 2-4.5 cm. long, 4-8 mm. wide: calyx 10-12 mm. long

the lobes usually as long as the tube or slightly surpassing, subulate, ciliate: corolla tube villous, much surpassing the calyx tube, deep red becoming darker upon drying; limb 1.8–2.2 cm. across, the lobes abruptly pointed; capsule 5 mm. long: seeds 3 mm. long, brown or black, rugose.

The type, Bogusch & Molby 2727, has been deposited in the Herbarium of the University of Illinois.

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